

"Jane Kelleher"

02/03/2004 06:37 PM

To:

cc:

Subject: community input

There was a staement made today by a boardmember to which I would like to respond and am doing so via email because I think it may be perceived as less rancorous than if I were to do so at a public meeting.

The statement made was to the effect that it would be welcome (paraphrasing) to hear from more than the '15 people that show up at these meetings'.

My response: I recognize that is a sentiment shared by some boardmembers and this knowledge is an inhibiting factor in communicating with the Board. One does not like to be at a party where one is not welcome. One is not comfortable offering ideas when the audience has a history of disrepect towards, in our case, the Westside.

I am drawn to a comparison which illustrates why Dan Berns, Chair and I, Vice Chair, persist--and I can only speak only for the Westside PAC. Unlike boardmembers who are appointed by the Mayor, Dan and I are elected and have a constituency we represent; if we do it well, we get reelected. As a refresher, the Westside PAC membership is restricted by City ordinance; it has 12-22 members and 7-11 alternates. These members and alternates represent the 350-450 businesses, residents and property owners on the Westside. Part of Dan's and my obligation, as officers of the PAC, is to come to these meetings and speak the voice of the PAC and thus the community. For those boardmembers who ave dealt with us closely, you know we don't take a policy position without direction from our membership.

Enough said; thank you for your work towards implementing an independent study of redevelopment in Long Beach.

Jane Kelleher